

## THE DISTINCTIVE PRINCIPLES OF BAPTISTS.

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BAPTISTS should, and we believe do, recognize with joy and gratitude the broad agreement between themselves and evangelical christians of every faith. But there is a great and growing need that they also have a clearly defined idea of the deep and fundamental differences between themselves and all others, and of the value of their distinctive principles, both as to what they are in themselves, and what they have done, and promise to do, for the world. Members of denominations which are divided into many distinct sections by the smallest shades of belief—shades of belief which involve no principle—accuse us nevertheless of sectarianism, because we maintain a separate existence. False teaching is abroad as to the nature of our peculiar principles, as though our denominational existence grew out of the single belief in a greater quantity of water in baptism. Ignorant brethren of other bodies continually accuse us of that very ritualism against which our whole history has been one long protest, often written in blood, and from which these bodies themselves have been drawn by us chiefly, so far as their skirts are free from its curse. Strenuous efforts are being made, in the interest of a liberalism which is really license, to belittle all peculiar doctrines. The growing zeal for christian union at any price, like a baneful miasma, is in danger of sapping all healthy and firm adherence to the truth, while there is beginning to be felt, as the logical